

Tyler Junior College News

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Survey shows most students registered, plan to vote in Presidential election

Jonathan Pritchard
Staff Writer

The U.S. presidential election this year will be for many TJC students, their first opportunity to vote for the nation's highest office. Many people believe college students hold the key to winning the election. Who would they choose to run this great nation? The TJC News surveyed 109 students in English Instructor Sarah Harrison's classes.

Are you registered to vote?

Of the students surveyed, 66 percent said "yes," 34 percent "no."

Which party do you support?

Republicans are in the majority on campus with 42 percent, Democrats 28 percent and 29 percent are independent or chose to remain unaffiliated with any party.

Do you plan to vote in the 2004 Presidential election? Why or why not?

Seventy percent said they plan to vote in the election.

One student said this is the "only chance we Americans get to pick who we think best represents our views."

Many students shared the view of the history major Aaron Scott, 18, "If you do not vote, you have no right to complain about political issues."

"I feel it is our duty," 19-year-old

Starla Pittman said.

Twenty seven percent plan not to vote. Some said they don't care. Some said they don't have time. Some don't think it matters.

One student said, "I feel no matter what I think, they will elect whoever anyway. My one vote won't really matter."

Graphic design major Eric Wright, 20, said, "We don't live in a true democracy." Many students share his view.

Communications major Nicole Ponce, 18, said, "In the end, it really does not make a difference."

Who will you vote for?

Many students, 41 percent, are undecided. Thirty eight percent of those surveyed support President George Bush. About five percent plan to vote for John Kerry. Three said they will to vote for whoever the Democratic candidate is, which looks like Kerry at this point. Three plan to vote for Ralph Nader. Another three will vote "not for Bush." One will vote for Bill Clinton.

Is it important to be active in politics? Why or why not?

Eighty three percent of students said, "Yes."

Brittany Kurinsky, 18, undecided major, said, "Our world revolves around

it."

Antonio Chowers 19, business major, said, "If you want things to happen in our country, you have to be active."

Nine percent say it is not important to be active. Some believe "...you won't actually make a difference."

Art major Josh Tamez, 19, said it is important to be active but, "the electoral vote limits the value of the individual's vote."

Seven percent said it doesn't really matter.

This nation is based on a democracy and designed to be led by those the people choose to lead them. Americans choose by voting. Voting provides the one of the main ways citizens can effect what's going on here. It's how they get their voices heard and try to elect the person with beliefs similar to theirs. One vote may not make a difference, but as one student put it, "If you don't vote, someone else is making decisions for you."



Photo by James Talley

Students place bids on art work done by peers. See story page 4.

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by Cory McCoy
staff writer

Since Biblical times taxes have been a part of life, mostly unwelcome. Some early civilizations took crops or cattle in payment for taxes.

Today taxes are deducted from paychecks and U.S. residents must file a report by April 15 each year. Anyone with a job knows the law requires everyone to file taxes annually in the United States. This cumbersome, boring task brings some advantages. Many Americans are eligible for refund checks. The IRS reported more than \$300 million in refunds went unclaimed in 2003. The refunds can provide an economic boost as citizens increase spending.

Jared Schiffner expects a tax return from Oxford Street restaurant earnings, which will help him repair his motorcycle and to pay the remainder of this semester's tuition.

Rebekah McClure, who works at First Federal Savings and Loan, will put 75 percent into savings and spend the remainder on books and vehicle

registration.

ETMC employee Natalie Blevins hopes to pay off some debts with her refund, but she will also put aside \$100 for savings.

Shelby Rhyme, a Wetseal employee will spend all of her return buying clothes.

Jon Pritchard, assistant manager of 75% Off Books, will pay rent with his refund.

Candy Dyson, who works at TJC, also plans to pay bills and will put the rest in savings.

Carolyn Bancrook recently wrecked her car and plans to spend most of her refund for repairs.

Travis Taylor, a student employee of Ray Pharmacy, expects a smaller than average tax return which he planned to spend at the Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans.

Candice Watral, who works for Target, planned to get another tattoo and spent the rest of her refund at Mardi Gras as well.

Julie Cooks, a full-time student, plans to pay for tattoos, gas and ciga-

rettes with her refund.

Beth Killingsworth, a Navy veteran, also plans to finish her tattoos with her return.

Julie Brumley, who works in the Learning Loft, said she will take her children on a vacation with the money she expects to get.

TJC employee Glynn Benbrook plans to put \$1,000 into a savings account after she has paid her bills.

Donica Harris, employed by Petland, plans to put all of her return into savings.

Amber Preddy will also put all of her refund check into savings.

Campus Safety employee Jamie Basham would like to put 80 percent of his return in savings and spend the rest on cigarettes.

Amber Byrd will spend her return paying for her car insurance.

Zach West plans to spend his return rebuilding parts for a 340 engine.

Richard Brown, who is retired, has already received his tax return. He is spending it on his car and motorcycles.

Mardi Gras, motorcycles, tattoos to capture refunds

CAMPUS

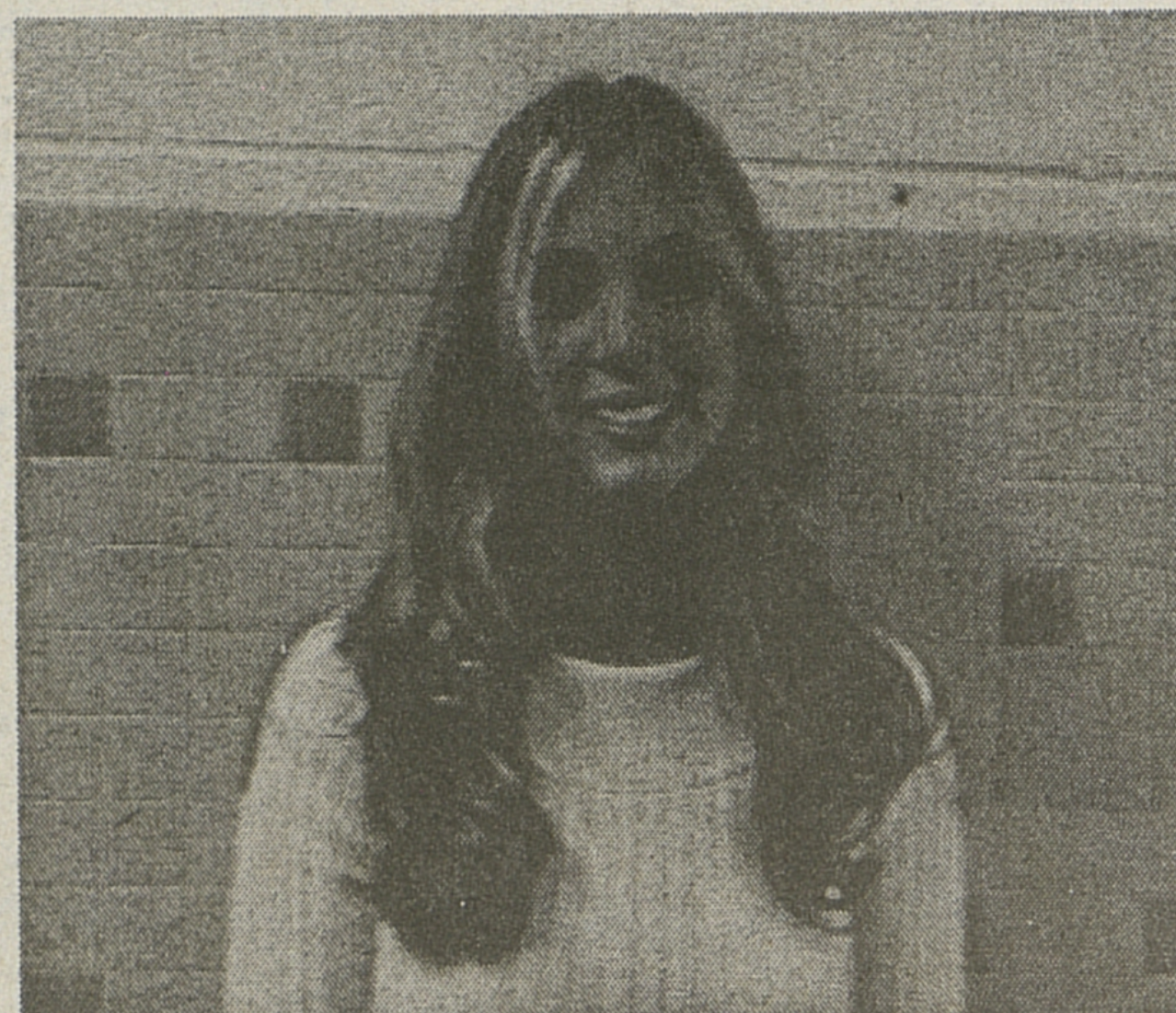
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How has school affected your sleep pattern?

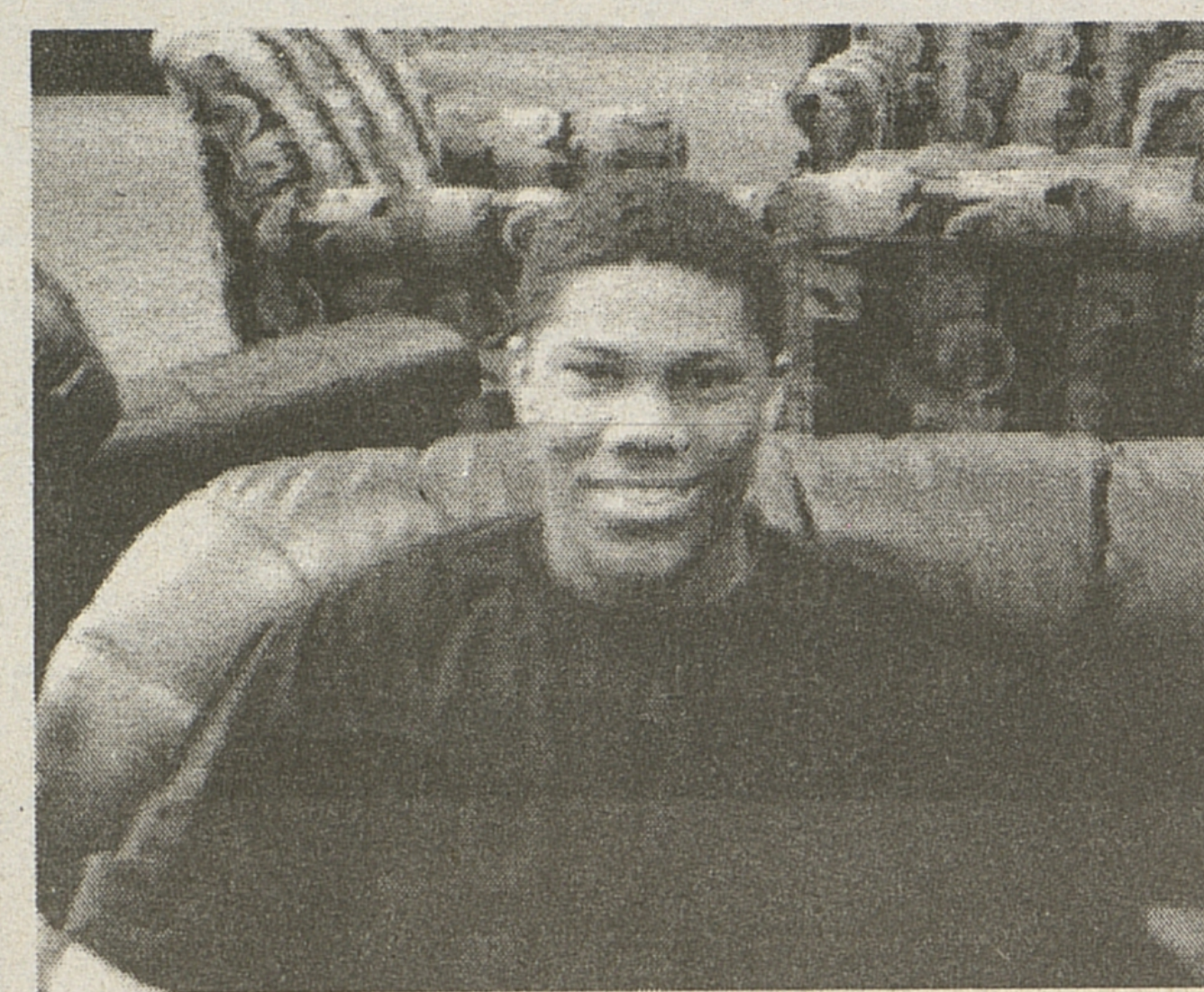
Aaron Sword, 19, from Tyler, said he just can't sleep. "I usually stay up late to do homework and then get up early for my classes"



Darius Wright, 22, from Whitehouse said, "I don't get enough sleep on Monday and Wednesday nights because I have school the next morning."



Keagan Shannon, 19, from Terrell said, "I get enough sleep. I only have classes two days a week."



Kevin Mobley, 18, from Tyler said, "School hasn't affected my sleep pattern much because I'm usually up during that time anyway."

Tyler Junior College
News

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Take advantage of the night

Pete Neal
Staff Writer

Beep beep..... beep beep..... You reach over to hit the snooze button and realize that your cell phone has just gone off in the middle of your 8 a.m. class. Rubbing your eyes you might ask, "How in the world did I get here?" Does this situation sound familiar? Is your chem class turning into a nap class?

Most students get an inadequate amount of sleep. Students' sleeping patterns can affect almost every aspect of their lives. Grades, sports performance and even relationships are all dependent on a solid night's rest.

Insomnia is considered as getting no sleep at all or even just having trouble falling asleep. If your sleeping patterns fall between those two characteristics: "Congratulations! You have insomnia."

Insomnia, especially for students, can be instigated by anxiety, Assistant Counseling Director Dennis Vidoni at the McKinley Health Center said. He has also noted other factors that can

affect a student's sleeping pattern. Diet, stress, hormonal imbalance, depression, drinking too much coffee, cola and tea are just a few, but anxiety can have the greatest effect.

Vidoni presents a situation in which a student with a low tolerance for anxiety might experience insomnia-related problems. "The night before, a student can't sleep because his body is revved up for an exam," Vidoni said. "The student starts worrying about sleep, and thus, the anxiety is transferred from the exam to sleeping."

Many people have been in this predicament.

Vidoni offers some advice. "When a student goes to bed and anxieties creep in, like worrying about an issue or getting sleep, if they can't sleep in 20 minutes, get up and do something else," Vidoni said, "I'd do anything else that distracts them from the problem."

Nursing Instructor Patricia Cryer, said "Students don't fully understand how important it is to get a solid night's rest. They (students) consider them-

selves invulnerable because they do not feel the immediate impact of sleep deprivation."

Some suggestions to encourage healthy sleeping habits.

Get regular cardiovascular exercise.

Be aware of your anxiety levels.

Commission your bed as a sacred place for rest. Don't do anxiety-related activities in your bed, such as homework.

Your body needs to know that when you get in bed, it's time to sleep, not time to work. It's not a good idea to study for an exam that you will sleep through.

Have a set bed time and STICK TO IT!

Before going to bed, it is also a good idea to have some time to wind down. Give yourself about one-half hour to get ready for bed. Take a hot shower, read a good book or even listen to some relaxing music. The point is to prepare your body for rest.

Sticking to a pattern before sleeping will develop a routine your body can anticipate. This practice will result in a good night's rest.

New lot helps but parking problems continue

Cole Bowen
Staff Writer

Despite a brand new parking lot on Palmer Street, across from Ornelas HPE Center and Pirtle Technology Center, students still have problems locating a place to park on campus. TJC President Dr. Bill Crowe said the issue of parking will most likely never be eradicated, but plans for another parking lot located just north of the new one on Palmer Street are included

in his strategy.

The new parking lot with 148 spaces that opened this semester cost an estimated \$1.2 million to build. This should provide sufficient parking for now, but Dr. Crowe said that eventually, parking garages will be built on campus, costing \$10,000 for each space.

The new plans have emerged after TJC administrators spoke with consultants who concluded the campus is

still short about 200 spaces.

Though the new parking lots seems expensive, they will greatly cut down the time spent to find places to park, and eliminate some frustration for students.

One way students could have less trouble with parking, would be to take more evening classes, Dr. Crowe said. The fewer students on campus in the morning, the better the chances of finding a parking space will be.

Proud tennis players get National Champions rings

By Matthieu Chanard
staff writer

Four returning players from the 2003 National Championship Men's Tennis Team recently received their rings.

Jordan Freitas, 20, from Brighton, England, played No.1 or No.2 in singles and No.1 in doubles, though he was a freshman. He expected to win the national championship with his team, he said, because all during the season he felt comfortable and "made good results." Just after Freitas won, he had an unbelievable feeling, especially of revenge, because many people predicted they would not win. That national title opened new doors for his recruiting, especially with the University of Texas in Austin and Texas Christian University. Freitas called it his "best sport accomplishment ever."

Chase Holliday, 20, from San Antonio, played No.6 in singles and No.3 in doubles. He expected to win nationals, because TJC never lost to any junior college. He found this win very entertaining, because "finally the hard work paid off" and "proved that American players can hang with older foreigners." His best sport accomplishment ever, he said, was his Texas team, "The Renegades," winning the Junior Olympics games in basketball.

Jeremy Hubbard, 19, from Lindale, played No.3 in doubles. Hubbard knew the team had a chance to win nationals, because they had a lot of good players. When he received his ring, he felt proud. He believes hard work pays off, so he always tries to do the best he can. This is his best sport accomplishment ever, he said.

Mark Growcott, 20, from Birmingham, England, played No.1 in singles and No.2 in doubles. He expected to win nationals, because the TJC team was "very good" and all the players were good friends. Growcott felt not only relieved but also proud of this win. He is grateful to TJC, because it gave him the opportunity for next year to be a member of Louisiana State University tennis team. At 16, he played tennis for England's team. This win was his best sport accomplishment ever.

These four players won the national championship in 2003 under the direc-

tion of Coach John Peterson. Peterson, 59, from Iowa, has been coaching TJC tennis teams since 1987. In 17 years, he has won nine men's and nine women's national titles. Peterson was not surprised to win the 2003 national title, because, he said, his team was "the best" and "the most talented." He was in a state of elation just after winning that national championship. This year Peterson would not bet against another national title, but he said it will be tough, because one of his best players, Chase Holliday will not participate, due to a back injury.

'Passion' fills Tyler theaters

By Chrissy Reneau
Staff Writer

Mel Gibson's controversial film, "The Passion of the Christ," debuted Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, with recordbreaking box office sales totaling \$117.5 million in its first five days. This box office figure puts "The Passion of the Christ" in the same league as such films as "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and "Independence Day." Many film critics and others have criticized the film's content, which covers the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life, while most of the Christian community has embraced the film and its message.

Locally, at TJC, most students and faculty were overwhelmingly supportive of the film.

Pete Neal, 20, of Chicago, said, "I have more of an appreciation for sacrifice." Neal saw a screening of the movie about a month ago, and said, "It was well-done. God wrote that story. It was an excellent re-creation. I'm glad I saw it."

Ramon Parker, 19, of Tyler, said, "It was really intense. You will never forget it."

Parker continued, "I think it's most appropriate. It probably doesn't touch the iceberg of what Roman crucifixion was like then. I think Mel Gibson did a good job."

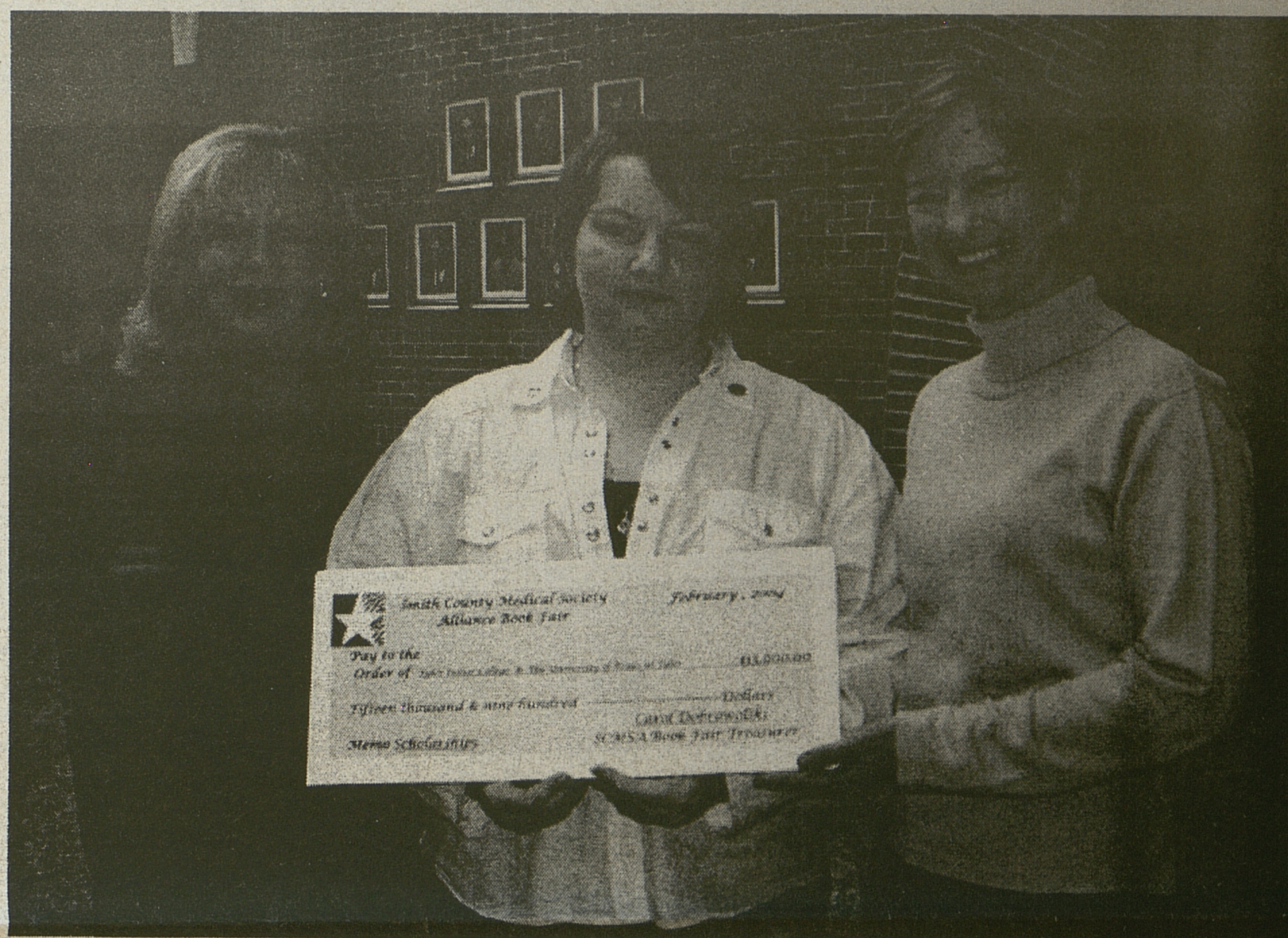
Octavia Hobbs, 20, of Houston, said the movie has been used as an "eye-opener" for many people. She described the movie as being "a real portrayal" of what Jesus did for everyone. She called the movie "a tool to reach people."

Cole Bowen, 20, of Beaumont, has not seen the film yet, but plans to see it. "I'm just ready for people to quit talking about it. It's just a movie," he said.

Concerning its content, Bowen said, "I take the apathetic approach. I just think it's crazy to get in such an uproar over a movie. I don't think it is right to make money off the name of Jesus Christ."

The record ticket sales alone are indicative of either interest or curiosity among moviegoers, particularly in East Texas. Local churches have rented showings at theaters plus an abundance of advance ticket sales have prevented many from seeing the movie.

James Talley, 24, of Dallas, falls in



SCHOLARSHIP— Suzanne Handley, Smith County Medical Society Alliance scholarship chair, and Dr. Danielle Dolence present a check to Tina Douglas Tallant, sophomore nursing student. This oversize check represents \$7,300 in scholarships awarded to 21 TJC students in the School of Allied Health and Nursing for fall 2003 and spring 2004. The Alliance's annual Book Fairs fund their scholarships.

this group. "I'm just waiting for the hooplah to die down. I'm going to see it soon, though," Talley said. He called the content "absolutely" appropriate. "I believe people are searching right now. We get lost in every day," he said.

Alta Gentry, University Studies staff aide, has not yet seen the movie. Gentry said, "I want to, though. Everything I have been told by people who have seen it was positive."

Gentry is aware of the biblical content in the movie. "Everything is still

relative to things today. It can be applied to our everyday lives," she said. Gentry plans to see the movie soon.

Both Tyler theaters, Times Square Cinema and Hollywood Theatres, are showing "The Passion of the Christ." Times Square Cinema will show the movie at least until April 1. Prospective viewers can call the box office at 903-581-1818 for ticket information and availability. Hollywood Theatres box office could not be reached for comment, but the phone number is 903-592-7000.

Taxpayers can choose filing options

By Faith Moguel
Page Editor

With different ways to file income taxes, several forms to use, many sites to check, phone numbers to call and numerous resources to answer tax questions, where does one start?

Three filing options are: traditional paper forms mailed to IRS, on-line or E-filing and TeleFile. Most people file a paper return which they or an income tax professional complete and mail to the IRS.

E-filing is quick and easy. Any refund can be expected back in half the time a paper return can take and more

and more people are starting to see the benefits of doing taxes on-line, according to H&R Block, a major tax preparer.

The third, less common way to file, is TeleFile. Once eligibility is determined by the IRS to TeleFile, a tax package is sent in the mail with instructions for this method.

The tax forms contain information about which taxpayers should use which forms. Taxpayers can get forms by downloading them free from the Internet at <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/formspubs/index.html>. Forms can also be picked up at the local library or post office.

Simple questions that arise while doing taxes can be answered by the Internal Revenue Service. The website, <http://www.irs.gov/>, has answers to common questions as well as tips for students and numbers to call. To reach IRS at 1-800-829-1040 usually involves a long wait. Call mom and dad before the IRS.

Most people consider taxes a burden, but they fund all public services such as highway reconstruction and education. According to the IRS website, revenue is essential for state and federal government to pay the bills.

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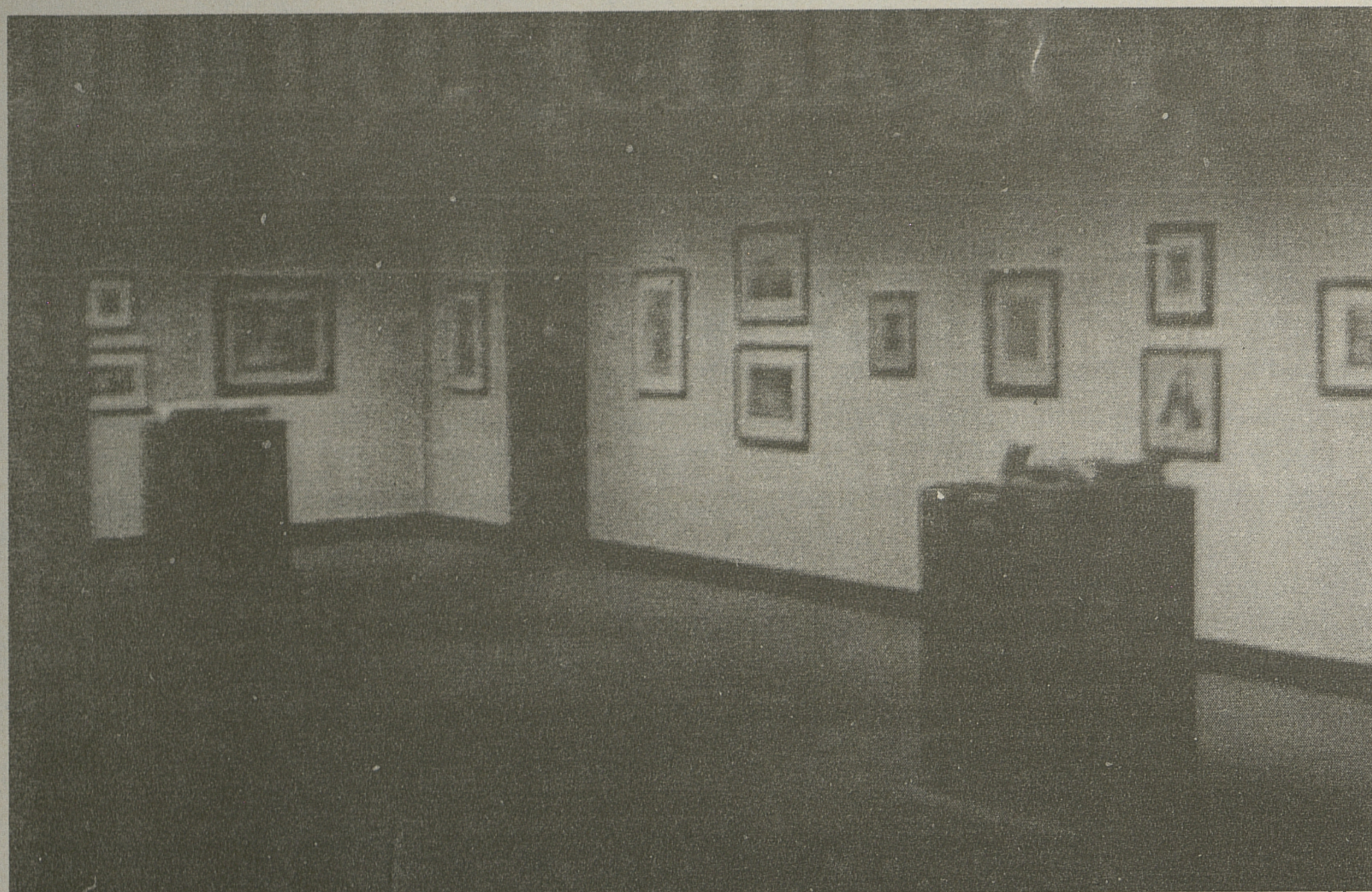


Photo by Aaron May

GALLERIES OPEN — Visitors to the exhibit, which runs through May 16, can view many works of art ranging from books to paintings. They can also take home a free brochure.

'Mexican Visions' opens at Tyler Museum

By Aaron May
Staff Writer

A new exhibit entitled "Mexican Visions: Works on Paper from the Michael T. Ricker Collection of Mexican Art" is on display through May 16 at the Tyler Museum of Art. As part of the "Latin Visions" series, hosted by TJC and TMA, this exhibit includes prints, drawings, watercolors, books, pamphlets and flyers focused on Mexico in the 20th century.

The exhibit includes works by Emilio Amaro, Federico Cantu, Jean Charlot, Jesus Escobedo, Jose Chavez Morado, Leopoldo Mendez and Alfredo Zalce.

According to TMA Spokesperson Robert Owen, many of them have received little recognition outside Mexico. Several works have never been shown in a public exhibition before.

Due to Mexico's high illit-

eracy rate in the early 20th century, many artists were inspired to use art as a medium for communicating philosophical and political messages to the Mexican people.

Michael Ricker, curator for this exhibit and owner of the Ricker Gallery near Dallas, will present a gallery talk at the Museum at 6:30 p.m. April 8. The exhibit, gallery talk and reception afterward are free and open to the public.

David Gonzalez will lead a tour of the exhibit in Spanish at 1 p.m. April 24. Reservations are required for the free tour. Call the Museum at 903-595-1001.

A First Friday Tour at 11:30 a.m. May 7 is free for TMA members and one guest. Admission for non-member guests is \$3 per person. Reservations are required.

Art Club raises funds with silent auction

By James Talley
Staff Writer

The TJC Art Club raised \$1,109, with their first silent art auction in late February.

The auction featured paintings, sculptures and photographs created by students and faculty.

The Art Club, organized in fall 2003, gives students a chance to "fellowship and share their love of art with each other," Lisa Frazier, Art Club president, said. The Club is open to all who enjoy art.

The auction featured about 80 pieces displayed in Jenkins

Hall with bidding sheets for each.

Potential buyers listed their names and their opening bid. The show was a huge success for raising awareness about the Art Club, Art Instructor Derrick White said. White plans for the auction to be an annual event.

The Art Club meets at 12:45 p.m. Wednesdays in the Art Department in Jenkins Hall. The club is open to anyone who enjoys art, as well as art students.

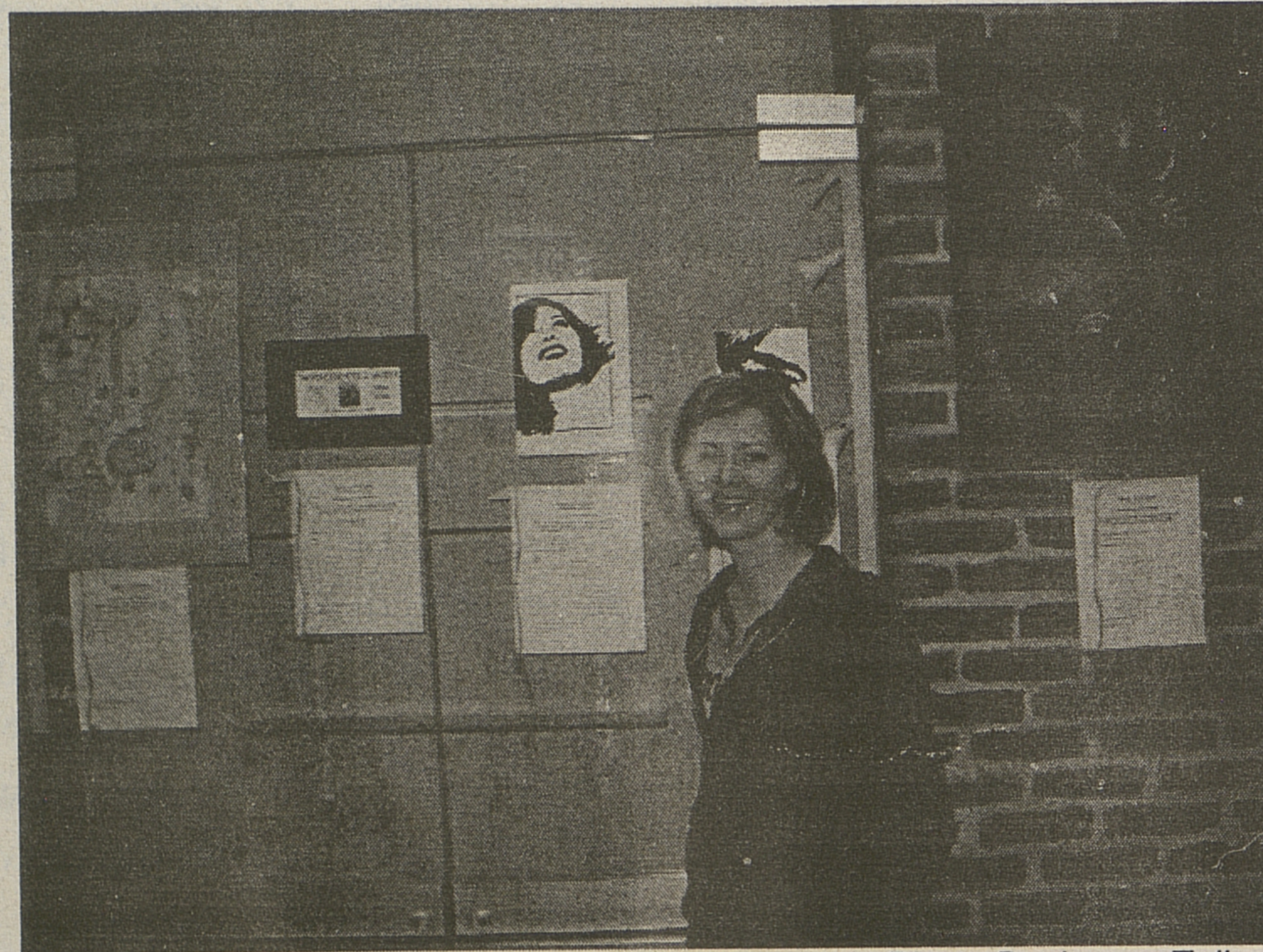


Photo By James Talley

Student artist stands by her artwork in Jenkins Hall.

Latino Serigraphs on display in Wise Gallery

By Aaron May
Staff Writer

Screen prints by 16 Latino artists are on display through April 30 in the Wise Auditorium Art Gallery and the Jenkins Art Corridor.

"Each serigraph is hand-pulled, a craft making each small edition as unique as an original painting. Each work is distinct to the artists' own vision and imagery," Art Instructor Derek

White said. "The prints are forthright and vibrant in composition."

The works include: "Bugged ... a board game" by Marjorie Moore, "El Spider" by Alex Rubio and "La Plazadel Mural" by Pepe Coronado.

The prints are from the Serie Print Project, Inc., an Austin based non-profit Latino arts organization. Serie

produces, promotes and exhibits serigraphs or screen prints created by both established and developing artists.

The exhibit is part of "Latin Visions," a collaboration of exhibitions sponsored by TJC and Tyler Museum of Art.

"Latin Visions" was funded in part by the Helen S. Boylan Foundation and the Rogers Endowment for Excellence.

Phi Theta Kappa brings awards from convention

Angela Berry
Staff Writer

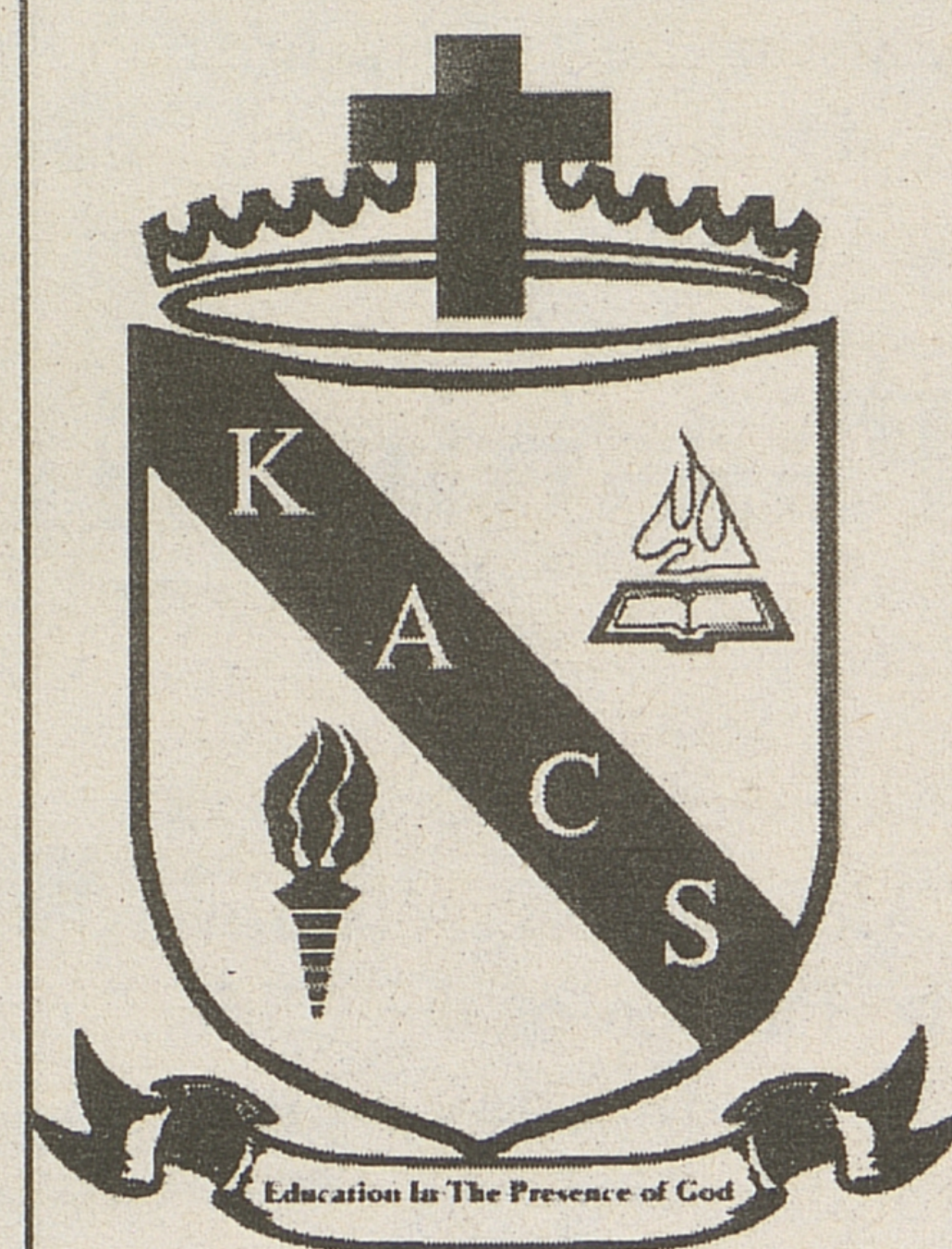
Phi Theta Kappa members picked up awards at the regional convention in Houston during spring break. They were named a 2004 Texas Top Chapter and Chapter President Jason Beaton of Whitehouse was named to the Texas Hall of Honor for Outstanding Members.

A distinguished Chapter officer, Rachel Finch of Tyler, was named service vice president. The chapter won awards for communication, the Most

Outstanding Yearbook and the Five Star Chapter development recognition.

TJC members worked together with the Iota alpha chapter from Trintiy Valley Community College to lead a workshop on "Popular Culture: Shaping and Reflecting Who We Are."

Students campaigned for regional president against Austin Community College and McLennan Community College. ACC won that title.

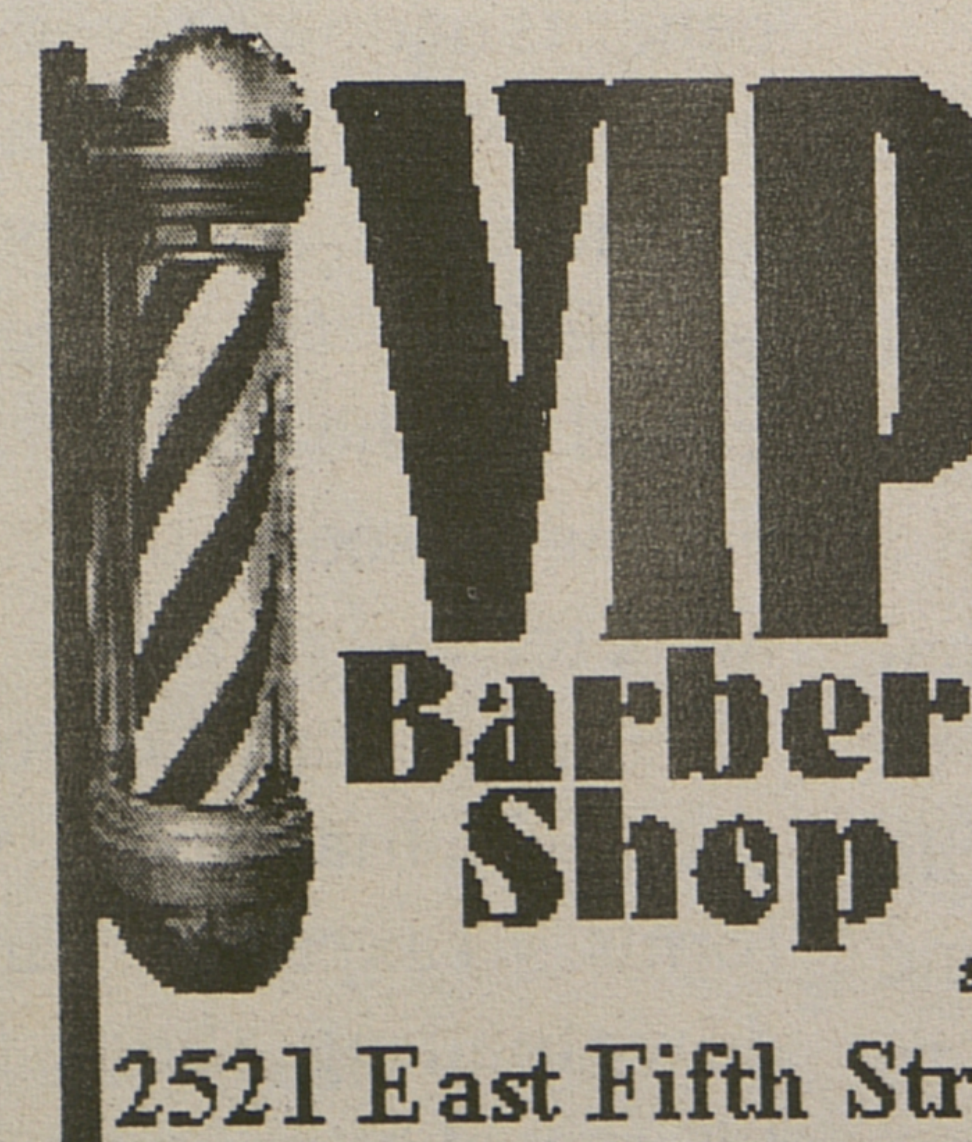


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